

**STAFF MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JULY 14, 2005
7:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair
Deb Schorr, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Ray Stevens

Commissioners Absent: Bob Workman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the Staff Meeting minutes dated July 12, 2005. Stevens, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Appointments to Lincoln Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council (Exhibit A)
- B. Additional Budget Dates

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval of the additions to the agenda. Heier, Stevens and Hudkins voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

- A. Appointments to Lincoln Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council (Exhibit A)

The item was scheduled on the Tuesday, July 19, 2005 Board of Commissioners Meeting agenda.

- B. Additional Budget Dates

The Board set tentative budget dates of Tuesday, July 19th, immediately following the 1:30 p.m. Board of Commissioners Meeting; Wednesday, July 20th at 1 p.m.; and Friday, August 5th at 8:00 a.m.

3 BUDGET WORK SESSION - Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer, distributed copies of the letter that was sent to county elected officials and department heads requesting a 3% reduction for all budgets with a request greater than 20% over last year's actual expenditures, as well as for budgets that increased by \$250,000 over last year's expenditures, and a 1% reduction from all other agencies (Exhibit B).

Community Mental Health Center

Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center Director, appeared and said he cannot meet the Board's request of a \$272,651 reduction. He said \$80,000 is more attainable and identified the Independent Living Program, Sex Offender Program and clinical psychologist contracts as possible areas of reduction. He said in terms of additional revenue, there may be rate increases from Region V, Medicare and Medicaid. There will also be an increase in Medical Rehab Options. Grant monies from grants from the City and the Community Health Endowment and on-going savings from patient assistance programs are also anticipated.

Heier said the County should try to get funds from the State for the Sex Offender Program (the program serves parolees).

Settle said he is also requesting an additional clerical position to handle verification review and billings for the Crisis Center's medical piece.

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, noted that the County has not received the contract from CenterPointe for the two positions at the Community Mental Health Center for the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team (a team treatment approach designed to provide comprehensive, community-based services psychiatric treatment, rehabilitation and support to persons with serious and persistent mental illness).

MOTION: Heier moved and Hudkins seconded to send a letter to Topher Hansen, CenterPointe Director, asking him to complete the subcontract from CenterPointe to the Community Mental Health Center for two positions within the Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team. Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Stevens voted no. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Corrections

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, appeared and presented FY06 Reductions to Budget Submission (Exhibit C). A budget reduction of \$315,924 was requested and \$212,950 in reductions were offered. A \$200,000 revenue increase was also projected (state prisoner reimbursement).

Brief discussion took place regarding how to budget for pre-architectural design (develop a plan to provide housing for jail population). The estimated cost is \$225,000. Stevens suggested that the Board budget \$150,000 this year and \$75,000 next year. There was general consensus to leave \$225,000 in the budget, at this time.

Thurber also requested authorization to house a minimum of 30 inmates at the Platte County Jail while modules are closed for installation of the new electronic security system (Exhibit D). He said he has not budgeted for this expense, (estimated at \$90,000 for two months).

Heier asked whether it could be paid out of the bond.

Kroeker said it could, because it is a cost of the project. He said if the other projects stay on budget, there should be \$45,000 in interest income that could be allocated towards the cost.

Hudkins asked if Thurber has looked at using the former Juvenile Detention facility in Airpark.

Thurber said he has and it would require rehab.

MOTION: Heier moved and Stevens seconded to authorize Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, to negotiate a contract with Platte County for housing a minimum of 30 inmates at the Platte County Jail, for a minimum of two months, and asked him to try to negotiate a lesser fee. Stevens, Heier and Hudkins voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Microcomputer Request C#2005-269, \$2,072.85 for computer software (Exhibit E). It was noted that the item was included in the budget.

County Sheriff

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, and Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, appeared and said they can reduce their budget through salary savings, projected at \$130,118 (Exhibit F). Jarrett noted that a reduction of \$77,395 was requested and asked that they be allowed to use the difference to hire a civilian employee.

Wagner said he does not anticipate additional revenue and said Byrne Grant funding is tenuous (estimated to be in the range of \$60,000 to \$70,000).

Community Corrections

Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, appeared and said she has trimmed \$27,500 from her budget (a reduction of \$27,663 was requested) (Exhibit G). She said in terms of additional revenue, Drug Court fees could be raised from \$12.50 to \$20.00 per week for an additional \$12,000 per year.

Stevens noted that the Board is looking at implementing drug testing for the General Assistance (GA) Program and asked whether Community Corrections could perform the tests.

Etherton said she would have to hire an additional Drug Technician. The level of testing will determine costs.

Stevens asked what it would take to phase out one, or both, Drug Courts.

Etherton estimated that it costs \$290,000 to run Adult Drug Court and said it would take six to nine months to phase out the programs.

Kroeker estimated that Juvenile Drug Court costs at \$180,000.

Board consensus was to place funding of Drug Courts on its legislative list.

Etherton also presented Community Corrections: Alternatives to Incarceration Programs, July, 2005 (Exhibit H) and said she will have information on the Work Release Program to the Board by next week.

Schorr arrived at 9:05 a.m., stating that her absence was due to attendance at the Arena Task Force Meeting.

County Board and Administrative Services

Eagan presented Proposed Budget Reductions for FY06 (Exhibit I).

Hudkins exited the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Board consensus was to take \$200 out of the Meals line item.

Thorpe noted that the budget does not include printing of new letterhead, envelopes, note cards and business cards (estimated cost is \$1,500).

General Budget Discussion

The Board reviewed General Fund Miscellaneous, General Government (612) (Exhibit J).

Kroeker noted that there was consensus on Tuesday to move \$650,000 from Group Insurance Premium (Object 65980) to Contingency (Object 65690) to cover that expense and on-going claims from Bryan/LGH Health System for Emergency Protective Custody (EPC).

There was Board consensus to reduce Contingency by \$50,000, leaving a balance of \$2,400,000.

Kroeker said he has not received the budget for Codes Enforcement (Object Code 64410).

4 ACTION ITEMS

- A. Microcomputer Request C#2005-268, \$1,209.60 from Adult Probation for Six (6) WordPerfect, Three (3) Lotus Notes, and Four (4) Emulation Software Licenses

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded approval. Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

5 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REPORT

A. Meeting with Senator Byars

Thorpe will schedule the meeting. Schorr, Heier, Eagan, Thorpe and Amy Prenda, Director of Legal Research and Analysis for Kissel/E&S Associates, will attend.

B. Correspondence from Gary Bergman, County Extension Agent, Regarding Application of Biosolids

Eagan said Hudkins has indicated that the matter has been resolved.

RETURNING TO ITEM 3

County Attorney

Stevens said he and Hudkins met with Gary Lacey, County Attorney, and said Lacey indicated that he is unable to reduce his budget unless he eliminates prosecution of bad checks or transfers Child Support Enforcement to the State (a reduction of \$173,783 was requested).

Kroeker estimated that the savings would be in the area of \$300,000.

Board consensus was to schedule discussion with Lacey on Tuesday, July 19, 2005 and to also ask for an accounting of Drug Forfeiture Funds.

Juvenile Detention

Dennis Banks, Youth Services Center Director, appeared and said he is unable to reduce his budget (a reduction of \$167,592 was requested). He presented FY06 Budget Proposal to Increase Revenue (Exhibit K). The proposal is to renegotiate the contract with the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)/Office of Juvenile Services (OJS) to: 1) Raise the per diem rate for the State to be the same as the contract counties (estimated revenue in excess of \$44,490); and 2) Have the evaluation process be from the first contact to the date the report is sent to the courts (estimated revenue of \$480,812).

Brief discussion took place regarding billings that are in arrears (Exhibit L).

Board consensus was to send a letter to Nancy Montanez, Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) Director, with copies to Governor Heineman and Todd Reckling, HHS Office of Protection and Safety Administrator, indicating that the contract is due to expire on September 30, 2005 and stating the rate and terms that the County would want to include in a new contract; the applicable state law and the County's expectation that payment will be on a more timely basis.

There was also Board consensus was to show a revenue increase of \$250,000 in the budget.

General Assistance

Gary Chalupa, Veterans Service Officer/General Assistance Director, appeared and presented budget reductions totaling \$124,200 (Exhibit M). A budget reduction of \$123,766 was requested. He said the savings are largely due to the drug assistance programs. Chalupa said there may be additional savings if a drug testing program is implemented and there are further revisions to the General Assistance Guidelines.

The Board asked Chalupa to find out what it will take to implement a drug testing program and the cost.

Veterans Service

Chalupa said he can reduce the budget by \$3,500 (Exhibit N). A budget reduction of \$5,148 was requested.

County Engineer

Don Thomas, County Engineer, appeared and objected to the Board including the cash balances when determining the percentage of his reduction, rather than the approved expense budget (a \$182,150 reduction in the Bridge & Road Fund and a \$27,519 reduction in the County Engineer's Budget were requested). He said the difference in the Bridge & Road Fund's expense budget is \$176,239, which would have placed it in the 1% reduction category (a 1% reduction would be \$60,000), and said the Board should only be concerned with the tax effect.

Schorr suggested a median figure of \$121,000.

Heier told Thomas that Hudkins has looked at the motor graders and believes they should be operational for another year.

Thomas disagreed and said he will cut paving out of the budget, not the motor graders. Two paving projects are planned: 1) Old Cheney Road between 112th and 120th Street (estimated cost is \$120,000); and 2) Waverly Road between 141st and 148th (estimated cost is \$150,000). He said the Waverly Road project is less of a priority and said he can ask the City of Waverly to sponsor the project (the County would reimburse Waverly \$75,000).

Board consensus was to reduce the County Engineer's budget by \$150,000.

Returning to General Budget Discussion

Kroeker recapped the reductions, which total \$1,129,158.

The Board discussed how to fund East Beltway right-of-way acquisition and the Rural-to-Urban Transition Streets (RUTS) Program.

Eagan said the county wheel tax, as originally proposed, will raise more money than is needed for the two projects. The purpose of the proposed Joint Public Agency (JPA) could be expanded, if the City and County both agree, to allow the County to use the extra wheel tax that is generated in the county to cooperate with the villages on projects.

There was general Board consensus to continue to consider the wheel tax proposal in different forms.

6 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Stevens moved and Heier seconded to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m. Heier, Schorr and Stevens voted aye. Hudkins was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk